

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 /087 W

----- 030125

R 061058Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6618

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1310

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SY SA FR

SUBJ: ASAD MAY SHOP FOR FRENCH ARMS WITH SAUDI FUNDING

1. WESTERN EMBOFF HAS PASSED TO US FOLLOWING COMMENTS
MADE BY CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL MARCH 4. CUBAN SAID ONE PURPOSE
OF ASAD TRIP TO FRANCE LATER THIS MONTH WOULD BE TO
NEGOTIATE FRENCH ARMS DEAL WITH FUNDING
PROVIDED BY SAUDI ARABIA. CUBAN CLAIMED SUADIS HAD
STIPULATED THEIR MONEY COULD NOT BE SPENT IN EASTERN BLOC,
AND NOTED SYRIANS IN ANY CASE INTERESTED
IN DIVERSIFYING THEIR WEAPONS SOURCES.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF SAUDI
FINANCING FOR SYRO-FRENCH ARMS DEAL. WHILE WE DO NOT
WISH TO OVERSTATE RELIABILITY OF THIS INFO, WE
UNDERSTAND CUBANS ACTIVELY CULTIVATE THEIR BAATHIST
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CONTACTS. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CONFIRMATION JIDDA

OR PARIS ABLE TO PROVIDE.

MURPHY

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NNN

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